United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Cleanup Planning and Testing Gets Under Way

Nease Chemical Site
Columbiana County, Ohio June 2006

More information

If you are interested in finding out more about the Nease Chemical cleanup project here are some resources:

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On the Web:

www.epa.gov/region5/sites/nease/

Documents to read:

Site-related files and documents are available for viewing at these locations:

Salem Public Library
821 E. State St.

Lepper Library
303 E. Lincoln Way
Lisbon, Ohio

Ohio EPA N.E. District Office
2110 E. Aurora Road
Twinsburg, Ohio

EPA Region 5 Record Center
77 W. Jackson Blvd., 7th Floor
Chicago, Ill.

This spring the party responsible for cleaning up the Nease Chemical site is starting the preliminary studies and design work needed for a full-scale cleanup project. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Rutgers Organics Corp. signed an agreement in May under which Rutgers agreed to complete a pre-design investigation of the site as well as the engineering plans needed for the complex and innovative project.

Rutgers is already busy on the 44-acre site doing a mapping survey of the land, wetlands and floodplains. This spring and summer the company will also be testing underground water supplies (called “ground water” in environmental jargon) to gauge current pollution levels so scientists will be able to tell if the cleanup is working.

Rutgers will also be conducting important pilot projects this summer and fall to see how two innovative cleanup procedures will perform. The approved cleanup plan calls for contaminated former Ponds 1 and 2 to be treated with a process called stripping/stabilization/solidification where a tiller-like machine will burrow into the polluted sludge of the drained ponds and inject air. The tiller action and forced air will push chemicals to the surface where they will be treated. A cement-like substance will then be mixed into the former ponds to prevent any remaining pollutants from moving.

The other innovative treatment process will use microscopic bits of iron called “nanoparticles” to react with chemicals in the polluted underground water and turn them into harmless byproducts. The long name for this technology is “nanoscale zero-valent iron.” In the fall, field testing will begin cleaning up a very contaminated area of ground water. Scientists will measure how effectively the nanoparticles work and how big an area is treated.

These two pilot projects will demonstrate how long they will take to work and the combination of treatment methods needed to achieve the best cleanup results when the full-scale projects get under way in a year or two. The Nease Chemical site is mainly polluted by a chemical called mirex in soil and volatile organic compounds, which evaporate into the air or dissolve in water easily.

Little Beaver Creek update

EPA hopes to propose a cleanup plan for the Middle Fork of Little Beaver Creek in 2007. Areas of the creek are contaminated with mirex from past operations at the Nease site. Water testing in the creek found some good news, however. No mirex was detected in any of the samples. But the latest testing on fish and creek mud is still being analyzed for mirex, which has been found in previous samples. Additional creek samples will be taken this summer.

Cleanup Planning Started on Nease Chemical Site

Pilot Projects Will Show
How Well Innovative
Treatment Plans Work

(details inside)

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